

8. (Amended) The contour emphasizing circuit according to ~~claim 3 or~~ claim 6, wherein the synchronizing means is composed of the 1-dot delay circuit 11 and the 1-line delay circuit 12 for synchronizing the timings of all the 17 pixels, namely, the objective pixel C3 and the pairs of adjacent horizontal pixels C1 and C5, C2 and C4, the pairs of adjacent vertical pixels A3 and E3, B3 and D3, the pairs of adjacent rightward-rising pixels E1 and A5, D2 and B4, and the pairs of adjacent leftward-rising pixels A1 and E5, B2 and D4; the contour direction detecting stage 24 is composed of the subtracting circuit 13 for detecting the difference in the luminance between each of the pairs of the horizontal pixels C1 and C5, C2 and C4, each of the pairs of the vertical pixels A3 and E3, B3 and D3, each of the pairs of the rightward-rising pixels E1 and A5, D2 and B4, each of the pairs of the leftward-rising pixels A1 and E5, B2 and D4, the absolute value calculation circuit 14 for determining the absolute values of the differences in the luminance, the maximum value detecting circuit 15 for detecting the direction of the pixel whose absolute value is largest of all, and the first selecting circuit 16 and the second selecting circuit 17 for selecting, for output, one of the directions of the horizontal pixels C1 and C5, C2 and C4, the vertical pixels A3 and E3, B3 and D3, the rightward-rising pixels E1 and A5, D2 and B4, and leftward-rising pixels A1 and E5, B2 and D4 in response to the signal detected in the maximum value detecting circuit 15; the contour detecting stage 18 is composed of the contour detecting filters 19a, 19b, 19d and 19e for respectively weighting the luminances of the pixels in the directions detected by said contour direction detecting stage 24,

the contour detecting filter 19c for weighting the luminance of said objective pixel C3, and the adding circuit 20 for adding these values; the adding circuit 22 is provided for adding the contour emphasizing value weighted by said contour detecting stage 18 to said objective pixel C3.